The Rainier Beach community is developing plans for an outdoor chess park and neighborhood gathering space that will honor police Detective Cookie Bouldin and her work in southeast Seattle empowering youth through chess. At the corner of Barton Place S and Rainier Avenue S, the park will be a prominent landmark for Rainier Beach and will provide activity space for Detective Cookie’s chess club and other local groups. It is a natural gathering space for locals and residents of the adjacent Barton Place Apartments (SHA) to enjoy the outdoors, play games, support neighborhood youth and stay in touch with their friends. This concept was developed after a full range of public involvement.

The park will be constructed on an undeveloped wedge of right-of-way between Rainier Avenue South and South Barton Place. Currently, the site is predominantly a lawn with a deteriorating wood planter at the south end. After a public process to select a site, the “King and Queen of Rainier Beach”, 9’ chess piece sculptures that are lit at night, were installed in 2016. Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements were also completed in 2016.

The plan is to remove the existing planter and make an outer plaza around the King and Queen and an inner plaza that features a 50’ long curved seat wall under a steel and fabric canopy, a giant chessboard (the giant pieces will be stored at the community center) inset into the paving and 12 concrete chess tables with stools. “Pawn posts” create a sense of enclosure for the site without blocking site lines. Planting beds are an opportunity for color and are sized to accommodate a rain garden if required. The community group is discussing strategies with SHA for bringing power to the site for lighting—2 fixtures on poles and strip lighting under the canopy. A new sidewalk gives the existing large oak tree more room. Detective Cookie’s chess club pledges to provide regular trash pick up, and the Barton Place residents will continue to provide maintenance for the site.
BARTON PLACE APARTMENTS

PLANTING AREA
PAWN BOLLARDS
LIGHT POLE
BUS STOP
TRASH CAN
CANOPY STRUCTURE
- 50' SEAT WALL
- LIGHTING
12 CHESS TABLES & STOOLS W/ ARTIST-CREATED CHESS BOARDS

BUILDING EQUIPMENT
PATH FROM BARTON PLACE APARTMENTS
PROPERTY LINE
LAWN
REPLACED SIDEWALK
OAK TREE
EXIST. SOLAR PANEL
LIGHT POLE

GIANT CHESS BOARD IN PAVING
KING & QUEEN SCULPTURE
NEW CONCRETE PLINTH BENCH

PLAN

DETECTIVE COOKIE CHESS PARK
3 MAY 2017